

weapons. We are tracing the guns, targeting the traffickers, taking more of our children out of harm's way. Cities like Boston have shown us great results. And if we'll all work together, there is no reason why every community in America can't expect and achieve the same success.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:48 p.m. on July 18 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 19.

Statement on the Cease-Fire in Northern Ireland *July 19, 1997*

On behalf of the American people, I welcome the cease-fire declared by the IRA on July 19. This declaration, which we expect to be implemented unequivocally and permanently, can open the door to inclusive negotiations to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland, a settlement that will heal age-old divisions and create an environment in which both vibrant traditions can flourish and prosper.

This is a moment of great possibility. As Northern Ireland's political leaders begin to shape their future, I urge them to do so on the basis of the principles of fairness and compromise that underpin all democratic systems. These negotiations must be based on a commitment to bringing about positive change and respecting the eventual settlement, even though it will not fulfill all the desires of any one party or community. The negotiations must ensure equality, justice, and respect for both cultures. As I have said many times, such negotiations can only take place free from the shadow of the violence or the threat of violence. That is why we look to Sinn Fein, like the other parties participating in the talks, to give their full commitment to the Mitchell principles.

Many men and women have taken great risks to bring about a peaceful resolution of this conflict. I commend the leaders of Sinn Fein who have helped bring about the cease-fire, as I commend the loyalist leaders who have sought to maintain their own cease-fire through many difficult months. The possibilities opened by today's announcement are also a tribute to those political leaders who have steadfastly condemned violence and worked to forge a democratically negotiated settlement. I particularly appreciate the efforts of the Governments of Great Britain and Ireland, who have dedicated themselves to pursuing peace and a democratically negotiated settlement that will benefit all the people.

The United States will work closely with the two governments and the political parties to build on this historic opportunity. On the basis of this cease-fire, implemented unequivocally, my administration will work with Sinn Fein as with the other political parties. The United States will strongly support those who take the risks of principled compromise as they seek a peaceful and prosperous future for themselves and their children.

Message to the Congress on Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for Mongolia *July 18, 1997*

To the Congress of the United States:

On September 4, 1996, I determined and reported to the Congress that Mongolia is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration cri-

teria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action allowed for the continuation

July 21 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Mongolia and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Mongolia. You will find that the report indicates continued

Mongolian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
July 18, 1997.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 21.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Budget Team and an Exchange With Reporters

July 22, 1997

Budget Negotiations

The President. I'd like to make a brief statement, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions.

I've just finished a meeting with my budget team, reviewing where we are on the budget negotiations. We have worked very hard to pursue an economic strategy of reducing the deficit, cutting where we could, then investing more in education, in the future of this country, and selling more American products and services overseas. And it's working. I believe it's very important now to complete the job and get a balanced budget agreement that will continue to invest in our country and enable us to grow.

This agreement—let me say again what this agreement does. I think it's important. It has \$900 billion in savings over the next 10 years. It reforms the Medicare program and preserves the Trust Fund for another 10 years. It also contains the biggest expansion in health care for children since 1965—5 million; the biggest expansion in investment in education from the national level since 1965; the biggest increase in access to higher education since the GI bill passed 50 years ago; and billions of dollars to put people on welfare in the work force, as well as special incentives to help the distressed areas of this country get some jobs and participate in this recovery. That's what this agreement does. Now, there are those who say that we'd be better off without an agreement; none of these things will happen without an agreement.

As to the tax cut, my priorities are clear. I want to help children; I want to support education; I want to make sure that we give appro-

priate relief to middle income families. I do not believe it is right to deprive teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses who have children in the home and who have only one earner and therefore earn less than \$30,000 a year, of the benefits of this tax cut. And we believe we have found a way to get around the objection that some Republicans have made of having the IRS collect it as a tax payment. We think we can avoid that.

But on the other hand, we don't want to—that's on the Medicare premiums—we don't—let me back up and say, we believe, first of all, that the tax cut is a tax cut even if it's a refund. Secondly, on the Medicare premiums for higher income people, I strongly support that. I said as soon as I got back from Europe that I would be disappointed if it were not in the bill. There is a dispute about exactly how we should collect the premiums. We think we have found a way to meet the Republican objective that it shouldn't look like a tax payment and still collect the premiums. If you're going to have a collection on upper income people, it's not fair to have some people pay it and some people not. So we think we've gotten around that.

Now, let me finally say that I am still quite optimistic that we will get an agreement that is consistent with our principles. We've had good bipartisan cooperation throughout this process, and I expect it will continue. Our budget team is going up to the Hill again shortly, and we expect that we'll keep working until we get success.